

# Overflow

The Institute for the Theology of Culture: New Wine, New Wineskins

## Lifestyle Evangelism in the 21st Century:

New Wine's fall conference, on Saturday, September 26th at Mosaic Church (1832 NE 39th Ave.; Portland, OR 97212), will highlight the profound evangelistic and missional approach generated by Dr. Joe Aldrich's classic book *Lifestyle Evangelism* and what lifestyle evangelism looks like in the 21st century.

This jam-packed day of thoughtful enrichment will include presentations, workshops, and panels by Paul Louis Metzger (New Wine), John Morehead (Western Institute for Intercultural Studies), Rusty Pritchard (Flourish), Mike Abbaté (Urban Design & Planning Director, Gresham), Clark Blakeman (Second Stories), Tony Kriz (New Wine), Caleb Rosado (Warner Pacific College), Peter Illyn (Restoring Eden), Gary Tribbett (Compassion Connect), Brad Harper (New Wine), David Greenidge (Tigard Covenant

## Building Bridges to Neighbors and Neighborhoods

Church), Roger Trautmann (Multnomah Biblical Seminary), Rachel O'Brien (New Wine) and more! Please plan to join us Saturday, September 26th at Mosaic Church (1832 NE 39th Ave.; Portland, OR 97212).

Visit [new-wineskins.org](http://new-wineskins.org) or e-mail [newwine@multnomah.edu](mailto:newwine@multnomah.edu) for more information and to register.



### Lifestyle Evangelism in the 21st Century: Building Bridges to Neighbors and Neighborhoods

Saturday September 26th  
8:30am-5:00pm, Mosaic Church

8:30am	Registration
9:00am	Plenary Session 1
11:00am	Workshops 1
11:45am	Lunch
12:45pm	Plenary Session 2
2:30pm	Workshops 2
3:15pm	Workshops 3
4:00pm	Plenary Session 3

Pre-register today to get a discount! Download the registration form on our website at [new-wineskins.org](http://new-wineskins.org).

Pre-Registration due September 9th  
Students: \$5

Multnomah Univ. Faculty, Staff, and Alumni: \$15  
General Public: \$20

#### On-Site Registration

Students: \$10  
Multnomah Univ. Faculty, Staff, and Alumni: \$20  
General Public: \$25

## A Word from the Director by Paul Louis Metzger

Our *Lifestyle Evangelism in the 21st Century* conference, scheduled for Saturday, September 26th, is very timely. Evangelicals have been giving greater attention to holistic gospel witness in recent years. Local examples include the Compassion Connect clinics, Imago Dei Community's Love Portland, and the Luis Palau Association's sponsored Seasons of Service.

These works of service

have been very impactful, and strategically and relationally important. Given the culture war tensions across the States and suspicion and hostility of Christianity in many quarters, it is vitally important that we Christ-followers create the space with our lives for our views to be heard. As Dr. Joe Aldrich (author of *Lifestyle Evangelism*) used to say, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." By no means should we abandon the

pursuit of opportunities to share and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. In fact, we should seek out these opportunities all the more! If we are truly compassionate, we will care for people's bodies and souls, and that includes sharing the biblical message: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

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For more event information, please visit [new-wineskins.org](http://new-wineskins.org)



## prayer requests

New Wine always needs your support in the form of prayer. Please take a moment to read our requests. These are areas in which New Wine needs strength, courage, growth, and protection!

Pray for a time of vision-casting and catching, relationship-building, and community growth during New Wine's upcoming Intern Retreat September 4 - 6 in Sisters, Oregon. Furthermore, pray that the New Wine interns would settle into the new semester, quickly moving into their respective emphases and being unleashed to engage their unique communities.

### 2008 - 2009 New Wine Interns

- Ben Malick
- Brandon Smith
- Braxton Alsop
- Chris Fauerso
- Chris Laird
- Hamilton Gonzalez
- Jeremy Nakasone
- Kelsi Johns
- Michael Badriaki
- Paul Utzman
- Rachel O'Brien
- Richard Fox
- Ronaldo Sison

## Responding to a World in Need by Kevin Palau

You have the power to change your world. I believe that now more than ever before. Your life - lived out for Jesus Christ - can make a real difference. No, I'm not talking about preaching the Gospel and when necessary using words. Nor am I talking about grabbing your bull horn and going down to the street corner. I'm talking about preaching the Gospel through word and deed, as you are going and as you are talking. I'm talking about real lifestyle evangelism.

After more than 25 years of involvement with one of the world's leading evangelistic organizations, I'm sold out to the power of lifestyle evangelism. And last year in Portland, Oregon, we caught a small glimpse of what truly is possible when the Body of Christ comes together in

unity.

Last year through the Season of Service and CityFest campaign, we were able to bring more than 27,000 volunteers together from 600 churches, implement 278 community service projects, serve 62 public schools, form 5 community coalitions, and log more than 109,000 community service hours. Through it all, we met the needs of tens of thousands of individuals throughout the region and clearly shared the Gospel. But quite frankly, I believe that's just the beginning. What more does the Body of Christ have to offer?

Just imagine the impact...

- Hundreds of churches actively engaged in their community through evangelism and social action
- Barriers broken down among church, corporate, and civic leadership

- Sustainable structures built for ongoing collaboration and partnership
- Thousands of believers trained and equipped to actively address the needs of their community

That's my vision for evangelism in the 21st century. Word and deed, actively and powerfully working throughout our community. Building bridges, not walls, as we attempt to reflect Christ in every aspect of our lives.

This is our opportunity to turn the tide in our community. We have the chance to take a stand for Jesus Christ, not only in our rhetoric but in our actions. We have the opportunity to show how Jesus Christ is relevant in all aspects of our life. That's my goal. And I hope I can challenge others to do the same.

Kevin Palau is Executive Director of the Luis Palau Association.

## The Last Prayer by Braxton Alsop

It's now cliché to point out that the great revivals of the Christian faith that swept across the country in the past few centuries began with the prayers of a few. So if New Wine's conference this fall involves rethinking the concept of evangelism in light of scripture, then the best place to start may be to rethink how we pray.

Discussions of prayer usually begin with what is referred to as the Lord's Prayer, and not without good reason. But if sharing in the sufferings of Christ is central to the spirituality of the New Testament, then I believe the prayers of Jesus from the cross should be the starting point for any discussion of Christian prayer.

"With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last." (Mark 15:37)

The last prayer of Jesus

recorded in Mark's gospel does not have words. It is an unintelligible cry of abandonment, pain, and desperation. It echoes the prayers of those under oppression, the prayer that God is seemingly most likely to act on (Gen 18:20, Ex 3:7, etc.). In Christ, God shares in our humanity and experiences the pain of His creatures who have chosen to turn their backs on Him. In Christ, God becomes one with us, experiencing both abandonment from the Father and death for us, and cries out to the Father from the depths of that suffering. In short, Jesus' prayer is a crying out to God both for us and with us.

The prayer that Jesus models, then, is a cry on behalf of and in solidarity with those who are suffering. Though we cannot experience the suffering of others in a literal sense as Jesus did, we can, however, empathize with them in prayer, petitioning

God not just by reading off a list of requests, but by allowing our hearts to break for them, and as much as possible, with them. The prayer that would best provide the foundation for "lifestyle evangelism," the proclamation of the gospel in word and deed to neighbors and neighborhoods, is the prayer that imitates Jesus by seeking to be on behalf of and in solidarity with others.



Braxton Alsop is a student at Multnomah Biblical Seminary in the M.Div. Theological Studies program. As a New Wine intern, Braxton blogs at new-wineskins.org.



## Compassionate Evangelism by Milan Homola

We live in exciting times! Over the past four years the world has changed, Portland has changed, the churches have changed, but fortunately, Christ has never changed; he has always been the way, the truth and the life. The turbulence of our culture, juxtaposed against our Savior's steadfastness, has created a perfect storm for growth and renewed expression of the gospel.

I have the great honor and privilege of being a part of Compassion Connect, an organization that takes God's call for unity and service to a level of practicality that engages churches in their communities. We believe that the gospel is a message of hope for all people. By our own personal transformation, we know it is best communicated in word and deed, though not always in that order. Over the years we have helped hundreds of

churches in nearly a dozen neighborhoods come together and be the Church to their community through the process of leading free medical/dental clinics. This journey has brought together many churches who had never talked with each other before. It has built relationships with neighbors in the community who had never darkened the doors of churches. We are learning and trying to keep up with God's prayer: "May they be one, as we are one, so that the world will know the Father has sent the Son, and loved them even as He loves the Son" (John 17:21, 23).

But we aren't doing this alone. We are working with many other groups and organizations, like New Wine, as well as hundreds of churches who recognize their calling to express God's love in word and deed. New Wine has done a great work of bringing theology down to Earth in the neighborhoods of Portland. Personally,

I have learned great lessons of how the truths of God's love permeate the heart and motivate practical action. A conviction of the power of the gospel and a boldness to proclaim it in loving action is a shared value between New Wine and Compassion Connect.

At Compassion Connect, we're thrilled about the upcoming New Wine, New Wineskins conference, *Lifestyle Evangelism in the 21st Century: Building Bridges to Neighbors and Neighborhoods*. Our work resonates deeply with the notion that the whole gospel must be brought to the whole person. I look forward to what may come of the fruitful dialogues that comprise the heartbeat of New Wine conferences. I know God's compassionate love for his people is actively at work in our community.

Milan Homola is Executive Director of Compassion Connect.

### prayer requests continued

Pray that New Wine's upcoming fall conference, *Lifestyle Evangelism in the 21st Century: Building Bridges to Neighbors and Neighborhoods*, would attract thoughtful attendees eager to engage the gospel in a holistic manner. Additionally, pray for our more than 15 speakers as they prepare to tell their own stories of the transformative nature of the relationships they've engaged in the pursuit of redemptive values.

Pray that God would prepare the hearts of those attending New Wine's annual benefit dinner to be moved by our story and to desire to cultivate a dynamic partnership with New Wine.

Pray that the strategic development of *Cultural Encounters* Volume 6 would continue to build upon the momentum the journal has built thus far.

Pray for New Wine's volunteers, thanking God for their devoted work toward realizing the Kingdom. Ask that they would be strengthened and encouraged by New Wine as we are by them.

*"A word" continued from page 1*

In view of our Lord's words and sacrifice, we are called to live sacrificial lives in word and deed for those around us so that they might experience the love of Christ and know him personally as Lord and Savior, and not endure a Christ-less eternity. In some instances, it takes a lot of time before people will open up their hearts and lives to us as Christ-followers given their suspicion and cynicism of religion and Christianity. This is one reason it is so important that we create the space with our lives for our views to be heard. Of course, we should not engage in bait and switch tactics of simply loving on them so that we can share with them to get them saved. Our goal is to care for people relationally,

which involves sharing our lives in Christ with them and talking with them about Christ with the hope that we can relate to them all the more profoundly as members of God's family as they come to faith in Christ.

But will they come to us? Certainly, we should go to them, but will they come to us? Do they see in us anything that draws them to Christ, or do we repel them, serving as roadblocks to the Gospel? The Apostle Peter encourages us, "... in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15). My hope and prayer is that we would live such profound lives in Christ that people would be drawn to ask us to tell them about him

so that they might share in our faith, hope, and love in Christ. The New Wine conference on lifestyle evangelism is timely, though the time is short. Be prepared to share the Good News and live it out.



Dr. Paul Louis Metzger is Professor of Christian Theology and Theology of Culture at Multnomah Biblical Seminary and Director of The Institute for the Theology of Culture: New Wine, New Wineskins.



## upcoming events

### Lifestyle Evangelism in the 21st Century: Building Bridges to

**Neighbors and Neighborhoods**  
Saturday September 26th  
8:30am-5:00pm, Mosaic Church  
New Wine's fall conference will highlight the profound evangelistic and missional approach generated by Dr. Joe Aldrich's classic book *Lifestyle Evangelism* and what lifestyle evangelism looks like in the 21st century.

### New Wine Benefit Dinner Building Gospel Bridges

If you would like to consider a strategic partnership with New Wine, please join the New Wine Advisory Council along with featured speaker Kevin Palau, Executive Vice-President of the Luis Palau Association, for this special evening.  
Contact the New Wine office for more information.

## Contact New Wine!

New Wine, New Wineskins  
8435 NE Glisan St.  
Portland, OR 97220  
e newwine@multnomah.edu  
p (503) 251-6767

The Institute for the Theology of Culture: New Wine, New Wineskins, directed by Dr. Paul Louis Metzger, is an official program of Multnomah Biblical Seminary at Multnomah University and is dedicated to bearing witness to Christ in contemporary culture.

## First Days by Beyth Hogue

As a child, that “first-day feeling” seemed as familiar as the worn fur on my teddy bear’s belly. New environments were just a way of life, predictable in their uncertainty. As I’ve grown into a stable adulthood, characterized by joy in the midst of routine, first days have become somewhat less pleasant. Even the first day of a trip I’ve planned and day-dreamed about for months is laden with uncertainty – will my expectations be met? Or have I been overly idealistic in my enthusiasm?

When I stepped into part-time work with New Wine in February, I feared how I might negotiate the “first-day feeling” to which I’d not been subjected in quite some time. I wondered if my passion for the organization would be squashed by the reality of limited budgets and an over-extended volunteer base.

Before long, I realized that’s exactly the thing about New Wine – it’s an organization driven by such devotion that its strangely infectious and entirely lovable character consistently wins out. New Wine represents a little bit of

everything I never thought I’d have. I studied gender and sexuality at Portland State University, fascinated and compelled by stories that challenged my sense of normativity. All the while, I pondered the theological and communal implications of the realities to which I was exposed. Enrolling as a student at Multnomah, I knew no one would point me to a passage that answered all my questions, but I was confident that some solid theological insight had to be relevant to fields so seemingly devoid of it.

New Wine offers a beautiful picture of motivating tension that has so deeply spoken into the questions I wish more people were asking. I’m grateful that New Wine will never exist for the purpose of providing answers. But in taking the rugged path of engagement, New Wine is a place where I will always feel like true, honest, dirty, yucky, weird and confusing community is expressed. And isn’t that what surrender looks like? Don’t we only receive the “answers” when we scream out with abandon, begging that Christ will somehow both liberate and embrace the parts of our lives we’re told to reject?

I’m truly honored to lend my professional skills to an organization that seeks to bear witness to Christ in our contemporary culture. I can’t possibly imagine a more humbling calling, one that demands that I lay my personal ambitions, agendas, and desires at the door daily, in order that our Lord might be glorified. As I trip over my sacrifices on the way home, sometimes begging grace, sometimes, quite frankly, just forgetting, I’m reminded what a great challenge and opportunity we engage as we live in the Kingdom that is here – and not here, yet – and not yet.



Beyth Hogue took over the position of New Wine Administrative Coordinator on July 1st. Beyth brings a history of event planning, an educational background in both theology and sociology, a fascinated interest in culture, and a restless heart for community.

## Storied Evangelism by Clark Blakeman

I am encouraged by the topic of New Wine's upcoming fall conference, *Lifestyle Evangelism in the 21st Century: Building Bridges to Neighbors and Neighborhoods*, because the title suggests bringing together several concepts that inform what Second Stories, the organization I work with, is all about. We equip churches to build partnerships with community organizations, schools, and neighborhood associations in their immediate area. This is bridge building; joining together with neighbors and neighborhoods to transform under-served and

under-resourced communities. It is in the context of shared cause that the gospel is both demonstrated and explained while serving together with folks who may not have seen or heard the good news before.

The theology of community development taught by Dr. Metzger and promoted by New Wine has greatly influenced the approach of Second Stories. I was a student in Dr. Metzger’s cultural engagement class when concepts that had been bouncing around in my head found some cohesion. Language was given and inspiration gave birth to hopes for churches formed by

a robust theology and living out a holistic gospel in their neighborhoods. I’m looking forward to seeing how the fall conference will contribute to effective and holistic lifestyle evangelism in the 21st century.



Clark Blakeman is Executive Director of Second Stories.